

Fwd: Homeless encampments on Del Rey creeks ...

**Subject:** Fwd: Homeless encampments on Del Rey creeks (Ballona Creek, Centinela Creek, Sepulveda Channel)  
**From:** Brian Buchner <brian.buchner@lacity.org>  
**Date:** 1/26/19, 5:46 PM  
**To:** Emada Tingirides <31546@lapd.online>, Matthew Tenchavez <mtenchavez@lahsa.org>, danielle.maldonado@lacity.org

Let's discuss next week. Thanks!

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Begin forwarded message:

From: Greg Good <[greg.good@lacity.org](mailto:greg.good@lacity.org) <<mailto:greg.good@lacity.org>> >  
Date: January 26, 2019 at 5:15:07 PM PST  
To: Brian Buchner <[brian.buchner@lacity.org](mailto:brian.buchner@lacity.org) <<mailto:brian.buchner@lacity.org>> >  
Cc: Christina Miller <[christina.miller@lacity.org](mailto:christina.miller@lacity.org) <<mailto:christina.miller@lacity.org>> >, Ami Fields-Meyer <[ami.fields-meyer@lacity.org](mailto:ami.fields-meyer@lacity.org) <<mailto:ami.fields-meyer@lacity.org>> >, Lisa Payne <[lisa.payne@lacity.org](mailto:lisa.payne@lacity.org) <<mailto:lisa.payne@lacity.org>> >  
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Does this lend itself to a UHRC review?

<https://www.lamayor.org/sites/g/files/wph446/f/NEW%20LOGO%20MAYOROFLA%20-%20mini%20%28good%20for%20email%20signatures%29.png>

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----- Forwarded message -----

From: Elizabeth A Pollock <[president@delreyhome.org](mailto:president@delreyhome.org) <<mailto:president@delreyhome.org>> >  
Date: Thu, Jan 24, 2019 at 6:17 AM  
Subject: Homeless encampments on Del Rey creeks (Ballona Creek, Centinela Creek, Sepulveda Channel)  
To: <[greg.good@lacity.org](mailto:greg.good@lacity.org) <<mailto:greg.good@lacity.org>> >

Good morning, Greg.

I enjoyed speaking with you at the Homeless Count orientation last night. Here is a recap of the Ballona Creek issue that we discussed:

After Chuy Orozco got jumped on the Ballona Bike Path in July 2017 (by youths, some of which he knew from his work at Mar Vista Family Center), residents along the bike path (mainly the Ballona Neighborhood Watch, about 250 homes between the bike path and Braddock Drive, west of Centinela) began meeting to talk about the problems created by the homeless living along Ballona Creek and in the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve. The first step was to clean out the encampment under the Centinela Avenue bridge. Senior Lead Officer Javier Ramirez worked with other agencies, posted notices and completed the cleanout on October 1, 2017. John Lindsay and Sharon Blunk have organized meetings about once a month since then, and now they have a list of contacts at almost two dozen Federal, State, County, City and joint powers authorities that are involved with Ballona Creek. The next meeting probably will be on Tuesday, February 5, at 7:30 a.m. at the McConnell Avenue entrance to the bike path. LAHSA usually sends at least one representative, and their team is in Del Rey about twice a week. Caltrans did an extensive (at least five working days) cleanout along the 90 freeway between Mesmer Avenue and Inglewood Blvd., and they continue to work on different sections of the 90 freeway. California Department of Fish and Wildlife would like to remove the homeless from the Ballona Creek Ecological Reserve, but at least one worker was stuck by a needle left in the detritus of a camp, so they have had to dial back their efforts. In our view, the state wetlands "restoration" money should be available to help keep the reserve lands clean, but the money may be shifted to other projects while the Ballona draft environmental impact report is still pending (four years and counting..).

As I mentioned to you, fire is a huge concern. I live one block from you, and we have had five fires in two years on the embankments of the 90 freeway at Inglewood Blvd. where it crosses Centinela Creek. There have been at least two major fires near the 90

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Freeway offramp at Culver Blvd. as well, and we have been told to call 911 if we see any fires in homeless encampments. Unfortunately, when fires are seen, one must be able to give a street address to the Fire Department dispatchers, and unlike Culver City, we do not have street addresses marked on the bike path. The Neighborhood Watch group has seen at least two instances of a fire truck driving up and down, looking for a location along Ballona Creek. In one case, the LAFD battalion chief was standing with the group when it happened. We have been trying for two years to get location markers on the Ballona Creek Bike Path. Matt Suska, who was the Bicycle Path Coordinator for the County Department of Public Works, attended one of the meetings where that was discussed, but I just saw that he changed jobs and now works for the mayor.

The Los Angeles Police Department does most of the law enforcement along the bike path, but we have been told that the new Chief of Police wants to disband many of the special units so more officers can be out on patrol. We want to keep the "Parole and Compliance Unit" because they are the ones who check to see if there are warrants out when homeless encampments are cleaned out. The homeless have been getting more aggressive, and our police officers are frustrated because they are spending 60 - 70% of their time on homeless issues. Frankly, the residents do not understand why the homeless are allowed to cut fences and stay on public property that is clearly marked "No Trespassing."

To give you an idea of the jurisdictional problems along Ballona Creek, I attach three maps that we received this month from the L.A. County Department of Public Works. The "Private Property" on Milton Street at Centinela Avenue is now the Milton Street Park, which is owned by the Baldwin Hills Recreation and Conservation Authority, maintained by the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority and patrolled by the LAPD. Although the park has been "open" since February 6, 2016, it never got a permanent certificate of occupancy. Originally, Army Corps of Engineers said there could be no trees in the park because they might damage the levee, but then MRCA planted 18 sycamore trees that were not on the plans, and the issue of levee safety still has not been addressed.

This is probably more information than you wanted, but it explains why dealing with the homeless along the creeks is so challenging.

Best regards,

Elizabeth A Pollock  
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